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Celebrating 60 Years of the Pioneer Center

This week I visited the Pioneer Center for Human Services in McHenry to deliver in person my remarks from the House floor congratulating their 60 years of service. For 4,500 men, women and children in the community facing developmental disabilities, homelessness and behavioral health issues, the Pioneer Center is a crucial lifeline.



(Rep. Hultgren presents Congressional Record of remarks delivered in the House)

[Click here to read and watch my remarks delivered on the House floor.](#)

59-0: My Bill Protecting Veterans Credit Ratings Passes

To ensure that veterans' credit scores and credit reports are not adversely affected by delayed medical payments associated with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Choice Program and other VA Community Care programs, I introduced the **Protecting Veterans Credit Act (H.R. 2683)**. Enough veterans have faced collateral damage from delays at the VA—their credit score shouldn't be another casualty of this bureaucracy.

I was thrilled the bill passed the Financial Services Committee 59-0, and is hopefully on its way to House passage soon.

[Click here to learn more about my bill](#) which has been endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the American Legion and the Wounded Warrior Project, among others.

House Passes My Legislation to Help Community Banks

The House has passed my bill, **H.R. 4725, the Community Bank Reporting Relief Act**, bipartisan legislation which requires federal banking regulators to simplify reporting requirements for community banks.

We can agree that our federal banking regulators should have regular updates on the overall performance and health of financial institutions. However, this does not mean federal banking regulators need regular reports about every single data point on every single financial institution. Washington needs to get out of the way so community banks can focus on meeting the needs of our communities.

[Click here to learn more about the Community Bank Reporting Relief Act.](#)

My Take On...

...Sanctions on Russia

Russian individuals and entities have engaged in long-running, coordinated and malicious attempts to influence and disrupt our American elections and political system—and they must be punished. I welcome the administration implementing congressionally-passed sanctions against entities and individuals connected to Russian cyber-attacks on the United States and our allies.

These actions send a clear message that our electoral system is not to be tampered with, and the United States will respond when we or our allies are attacked. I will continue to closely follow the implementation of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, which overwhelmingly passed Congress and became law in August. As our November elections approach, it is crucial we bolster our cyber defense capabilities and punish those who violate them.

Background: I supported House passage of **H.R. 3364, the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act**, which became law in August and provides authorization to levy sanctions against Iran, North Korea and Russia. I welcomed

the [February indictments of 13 Russian nationals and three Russian entities](#) for their efforts to influence and disrupt our American elections and political system.

...Omnibus Spending Bill

Click [here for my position on the omnibus spending bill](#) which passed Congress and became law.

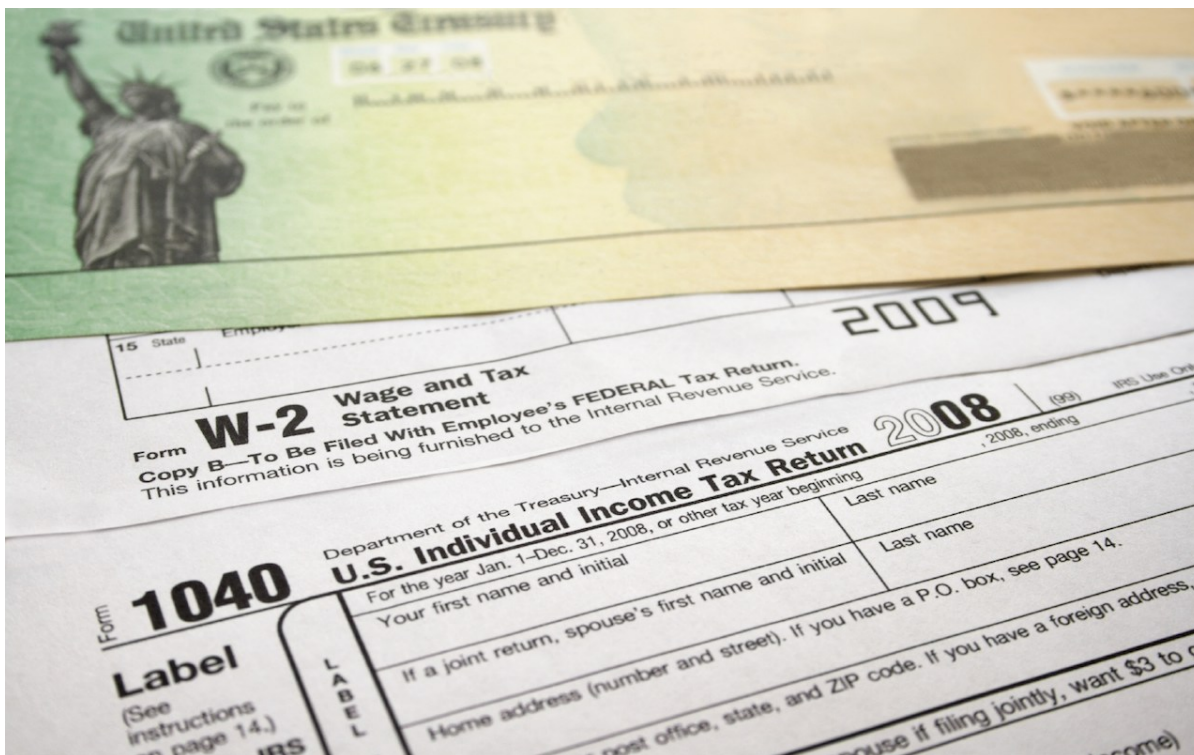
President Trump: Hold Sudan Accountable for Corruption and Human Rights Abuses

Since the United States lifted economic sanctions on Sudan last year, the Sudanese government has continued to bulldoze churches, imprison religious minorities and restrict the flow of humanitarian aid to conflict areas.

Fifty-seven of us in the House are urging the U.S. Department of State to tie economic incentives for Sudan to concrete and measurable human rights benchmarks that will help to stabilize the region and strengthen U.S. national security interests.

[Click here for more.](#)

Illinois Residents Get Full Deduction for Prepaid Property Taxes



In a victory for families across Illinois, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has agreed that an advisory issued by the IRS does not address Illinois and, therefore, taxpayers in Illinois are not bound by the IRS guidance and are able to deduct their prepaid property taxes. In December, the IRS issued [an advisory](#) that created confusion about the property tax deduction for Illinois individuals who prepaid them in December.

[Click here to read an article on this from The Hill.](#)

Combating Child Identity Fraud

I have heard far too many stories about my constituents becoming victims of identity fraud. One story shared with me involved a family in the north suburbs of Chicago. In this case, the Social Security Number of a 13-year-old child was used by a fraudster to open a credit card in an attempt to pay for a plastic surgery procedure. Crimes like these cost victims thousands if not millions of dollars and can remain an inconvenience for years.

I am especially concerned about children and recent immigrants, who do not have an established credit history, becoming victims of fraud.

Along with Representatives Curbelo (R-FL-26), Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ-9) and Kenny Marchant (R-TX-24) I sponsored legislation that will direct the Social Security Administration (SSA) to take a more proactive role in preventing identity theft. The **Protecting Children from Identity Theft Act, H.R. 5192**, directs the SSA to electronically confirm with trusted third parties whether or not a name, date of birth and Social Security Number (SSN) are affiliated. Our bipartisan legislation will help the government partner with the private sector to prevent identity theft from taking place.

[Here's a piece I wrote for Crain's Chicago Business with more background on the issue.](#)

Art Competition 2018 Is On!



Get your submissions in by April 13. [Click here for all of the details.](#)

Have a Good Friday and a Blessed Easter.

In Your Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy", is positioned above the printed name.

Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress
14th District, Illinois

Randy in the News

- [Congressman Randy Hultgren Talks Taxes and Jobs](#) (AM1440 WROK)
- [Former Kaneland student graduates from West Point](#) (Kane County Chronicle)
- [ICOs Draw Fire at US Congressional Hearing](#) (Coindesk)
- [If you prepaid your property taxes, you can deduct them from your taxes](#) (Daily Herald)
- [Illinois congressman: Dodd-Frank rollback a lifeline for farmers, small businesses](#) (Illinois News Network)
- [Op-ed: Israeli medical humanitarian work along Syrian border deserves U.N. recognition](#) (Chicago Sun-Times)
- [Treasury allows Illinois residents to deduct prepaid property taxes](#) (The Hill)
- [U.S. Congressmen call to link normalization with Sudan to freedoms and human rights](#) (Sudan Tribune)
- [Why Congress must reinstate advance refunding bonds](#) (The Bond Buyer)

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